(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और सरकार ने इस संबंध में कोई जांच कराई है अथवा कराने का विचार रखती है; और

(घ) एमटीएनएल को इस व्यवस्था के कारण हर माह हो रहे घाटे से बचने के उद्देश्य से इस व्यवस्था को बंद करने के लिए सरकार क्या निर्णय लेने का विचार रखती है?

संचार मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री कबीन्द्र पुरकायस्थ): (क) महानगर टेलीफोन लि. के गठन के पूर्व दिनांक 1.4.1986 से क्वाइन कलेक्टिंग बाक्स (सीसीबी) प्रकार के लैकल पीसीओ प्रचलन में हैं। अर्जित धनराशि के बारे में सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(ख) अनअटेन्डेड किस्म के सीसीबी पीसीओ की मीटर रीडिंग तथा उसमें इकट्ठा किये गये सिक्कों की राशि में अन्तर पाया गया है।

(ग) अन्तर के मुख्य कारण ये हैं:—(i) भुगतान उपरान्त टाइप रूपांकन होते हुए भी काल करने वाली पार्टी काल्ड पार्टी का उत्तर प्राप्त करने के पश्चात् सिक्का नहीं डालती (ii) नकली सिक्के।

(घ) चूंकि यह प्रणाली बड़ी संख्या में सामान्य जनता को टेलीफोन सुविधा प्रदान करती है, इसलिए इसे समाप्त करने का कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है। तथापि सीसीबी पीसीओ का पूर्व-भुगतान टाइप का परिशोधित रूप विकसित कर लिया गया है जिसे नेटवर्क के क्रमिक रूप से शुरू किया जा रहा है।

Insufficient Gum on the sealing edge of Inland Letters

2067. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA: Will the MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether envelopes and inland letters do not have enough gum on the sealing edge for proper pasting; and

(b) the action proposed to attend to such customer needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) Supply of stationery being an ongoing process, inadequacies of gumming pointed out either by the customers or noticed otherwise, are taken up with Government of India Security Printing Presses for necessary rectification to achieve acceptable standards for customers satisfaction. To ensure public satisfaction the Department has laid down standard for gumming and internal quality control checks for these printing presses.

Telephone connections in Assam

2068. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided in Assam during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far, District-wise;

(b) the number of applications in the waiting list in North-Eastern region, particularly in Assam till October, 1998 district-wise and exchange-wise; and

(c) the time by which the above waiting list likely to be cleared and the details of steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) the number of telephone connections provided in Assam during 1994-95, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98 so far, district-wise is closed as Statement *(See below)*

(b) the number of applications in the waiting list District-wise and exchange-wise till Oct, 1998 for Assam Telecom Circle and that for North East Telecom Circle is given in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 185, Annexure No. 52]

(c) Assam Circle has planned to clear the waiting list of 3937 as on 31.10.1998 by the end of financial year 1998-99.

Out of the waiting list of 20028 as on 31.10.1998 North East Circle has planned to clear about 19000 during the current financial year and the remaining in the next financial year.

Statement

Assam Telecom Circle

The number of telephone connection provided in Assam during the years district-wise are as follows:

Name of District	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99 Upto November 1998
Kamrup	3519	4758	2613	8405	7125
Bongaigaon	510	710	300	462	240
Dhubri	400	611	322	725	262
Kokrajhar	200	390	182	150	48
Goalpara	145	200	193	435	150
Barpeta	232	636	526	724	45
Naibari	255	226	520	474	23
Jorhat	671	994	1073	3136	131
Golaghat	279	524	736	1764	212
Sibsagar	523	749	700	2354	305
Nagaon	1105	1173	1110	4682	894
Morigaon	359	189	396	442	298
Karbi Anglong	167	214	60	331	141
Sonitpur	661	1922	1416	1783	339
Daurang	184	405	579	936	172
Lakhimpur	141	675	617	679	182
Dhemaji	93	265	411	337	61
Dibrugarh	900	1350	1800	1857	213
Tinsukia	890	1324	2090	3544	435
Cachar	1027	1896	1220	2792	408
Karimganj	663	769	450	328	247
Hailakandi	59	275	125	96	152
N.C. Hills	120	40	69	41	61
GRAND TOTAL	13103	20295	18003	36477	12154

New Post Offices in Kendrapara District of Orissa

2069. SHRI S. NIRAIKULATHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of applications requesting for opening new post offices in the rural areas of Kendrapara district in Orissa are pending with the department for the last five years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how many new post offices are proposed to be opened in Orissa during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) and (b) No sir, only one application for opening of new Post Office at Madhupur Village is under examination and is pending finalisation due to non-receipt of complete information.

(c) A target for opening of Ten (10) Departmental Branch Post Offices and two (2) Departmental Sub Post Offices has been fixed for Orissa Circle during the current Plan 1998-99; subject to availability of resources.

Telephone connections in Dakshinpuri Extension

2070. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of O.Bs issued by the Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd. under the Nehru Place Telephone Exchange during the year 1998 so far;